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By the Queene.

A Proclamation made for the reuerent blage of al Churches and Churchyardes.



Of auoyding of diuers outragious and vnseemely behauiours vsed aswel within and neare the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul in London, as in diuers other Churches of this Realme, and for the better and speedy reducing of the same Churches to the godly vles for the whiche the same were builded: The Queenes Maiestie of her godly and vertuous disposition, straightly chargeth and commaundeth, that al lawes & good ordinaunces heretofore prouided agaynst fyghting and quarrelling in Churches and Churchyardes, shalbe duely and with al seueritie executed, accordyng to the tenor and true meanyng of the sayde lawes and ordinaunces.

And further her Maiesties pleasure is, that yf any person shal make any fray or quarrel, or drawe, or put out his hande to any weapon for that purpose, or shoothe any handgunne or dagge within the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, or Churchyarde adioynnyng thereunto, or within the limites of the foure chaynes compassyng the same, or within any other Church or Churchyarde, shal receiue not only the punishment conteyned in the statutes prouided for the same: but also beyng thereof conuicted eyther by the euidence of the facts, testimonie of two honest and indifferent persons, or by theyr owne confessions before her highnesse counsell in the Starre chaumber, or the Maior for the tyme beyng within the citie of London: and in other places out of the same citie, before two Iustices of the peace of the Countie or place where any of the sayde offences shalbe committed: shal suffer imprisonment by the space of two monethes without bayle or maynepysle: And further paye suche fine and forfeyture towards the reparation of the sayde Church of Saint Paul, or of other Churches where the same offence shalbe committed, as shalbe assessed by the sayde Counsell Maior, or Iustices before whom suche conuiction shalbe, as is aforesayde.

And her Maiestie further straightly chargeth and commaundeth al and synguler her subiectes, that none of them duryng the tyme of preaching within the sayde Church of Paules, or Churchyarde of the same, or of any diuinitie lecture readyng, or of diuine seruice in the same Church, or in any other Church or Churchyarde within the Realme, shal walke by & downe, or vse any kynde of disturbaunce, or spende the tyme in the same about any bargaynes or other prophane causes: but shal resorte vnto the common prayer, preaching, or readyng, and there quietly and reuerently behaue them selues, as to the duetie of Christian men apparteyneth, or els quietly to auoyde out of the sayde Church or place, vpon payne of imprisonment, and of suche further fine as is aforesayde: the fine alwayes to be conuerted to the repayyng of the Church where the offence shalbe committed.

Her Maiestie also straightly chargeth & commaundeth that al persons do forbear to make from henceforth any limitation or appoyntment by wytyng or other wise, for the payment of any summe or summes of money within the sayde Church of Saint Paul, or in any other Church or Chappel where diuine seruice is or shalbe vsed, and the worde of God preached, or to carpe or recary anye burden, fardell, or other vnseemely thyng throughe the sayde Churches, other then for the repayyng or other necessities of the same Churches, vpon payne of imprisonment, and further punishment by fine, as afoze is sayd.

Prrouided alwayes, that it shalbe lawfull as wel to any person, whiche at this present stand bound by any former couenaunt or bonde, to make any payment of any summe or summes of money, in any Church, or other place aforesayde, to make tendre and payment of the same, as also to euery such person and persons, to whom the summe is or shalbe due, to receaue the same in suche place where it is limited to be tendred and payde, vnlesse the parties (whiche is trusted they wyl for good orders sake) shal otherwyle agree: This Proclamation to the contrary, notwithstanding.

And for the better execution of this Proclamation, her Maiesties pleasure and expresse commaundement is, that the Maior, Aldermen, Sheriffes, and other her Officers, and Commons of her Citie of London, and euery of them, doo not onely ayde, and assist, and helpe the Bysshop of the sayde See and Church of S. Paul, for the tyme beyng, and other Ecclesiastical Officers and Ministers of the same, from tyme to tyme, in the due execution of the premisses, as neede shall requyre: but also that the sayde Maior of London, shal appoynt euery Sunday, and other holidages in the peere, duryng suche tyme, and at euery tyme that shalbe thought by the Bysshop or Deane of the Church requisite, some one or two of the Aldermen of the said Citie of London, accompanied with.iiii. or. vi. discreete Commoners of the sayde Citie, and attended vppon with



a convenient number of the Sergeantes and Officers of the sayd Citty, to repayre vnto the said Church of S. Paul, there to see the premisses duely executed in al poyntes accordingly. And if they shal find any person disobedient, or offending in any thyng touchyng the premisses, to apprehend and commit him forthwith to prison, there to remayne without bayle or mayneprise, vntyl further order be taken with the said offendour in fourme aforesayde. And finally, her Maiestie straightly chargeth and commaundeth all and singuler her Iudices of peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Constables, Headboroughes, Churchwardens, and all o-  
ther her byghnesse Officers, Ministers, and Subiectes, that they and euery of them from tyme to tyme, en-  
denour them selues to the beste of theyr powers, to cause and see that this her Maiesties Proclamation and  
expresse commaundement, within the limittes of theyr iurisdiction and parishes, be put in due and full exe-  
cution, accordyng to the fourme aboue mentioned, as they tender her Maiesties special fauour, and wyl a-  
uoyde the contrary at theyr perylles.

Geuen at S. James, the. xx. of October, the. iii. yeere of the raigne of Elizabeth, by the grace of  
God, Queene of Englande, Fraunce, and Irelande, defendour of the fayth. &c. 1561.

*God saue the Queene.*

Imprinted at London in Povvles  
Churchyarde, by Richarde Iugge, Printer to the  
Queenes Maiestie.